

Act is an important, free-market conservation tool that does not regulate how people develop their land, but transfers the full cost of developing in risky, environmentally sensitive areas from taxpayers to the individual choosing to develop. The Coastal Barrier Resources System also provides much-needed habitat for our Nation's treasured wildlife, including federally threatened Red Knot birds in Delaware.

H.R. 5787 adds approximately 18,000 acres along the Delaware, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Florida coasts to the Coastal Barrier Resources System, protecting these barrier islands, beaches, wetlands, and aquatic habitat from federally funded development.

H.R. 5787 also corrects an error that placed part of Bethany Beach, in my great State of Delaware, within the Coastal Barrier Resources System. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service discovered this error during a Coastal Barrier Resources System digital mapping pilot project, which Congress directed the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to undertake in 2000.

Digital mapping has enabled the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to greatly improve mapping accuracy as the Service updates outdated maps and makes determinations about whether properties fall inside or outside the Coastal Barrier Resources System. However, as our colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives drafted H.R. 5787, concerns arose regarding the security and permanency of digital maps.

To address these concerns, the U.S. House of Representatives included section 3 in H.R. 5787. However, this legislation is not intended to prevent the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from using various digital tools, digital data, and digital maps to help implement the Coastal Barrier Resources Act.

I would ask if my distinguished colleague, the Senator from Wyoming, chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee, could confirm my understanding about the use of digital maps under H.R. 5787?

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, the Senator from Delaware is correct about this use of digital maps. Under H.R. 5787, Congress does not intend to prevent the use of these tools or data to assist in the implementation of the Coastal Barrier Resources Act. Congress intends to ensure the integrity of the system maps and the rule of law. Congress intends that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service be permitted to continue to make determinations as to whether a location is inside or outside of the Coastal Barrier Resources System with the assistance of Geographic Information Systems and any digital boundary data that were used to create the Coastal Barrier Resources System maps.

In cases where properties or project sites are located close to a system boundary, due to the scale of the official maps or age of the underlying base

maps, the assistance of various digital tools and data may be needed in order to ensure that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service makes accurate determinations. Congress intends that those determinations are based on a printed, hard copy version of an applicable digital map.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I thank my colleague for his confirmation of my understanding. In conclusion, I also want to thank my colleague for working with me and all of our colleagues to enact this bipartisan legislation into law. During a time of frequent partisan gridlock, I am proud of the work of the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works for shepherding agreement on many important issues, including this one.

Thank you.

TRIBUTE TO ORRIN HATCH

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to my colleague Senator ORRIN HATCH and his more than 40 years of public service. Only five U.S. Senators have served longer than Senator HATCH, and he is one of the few who have served as President Pro Tempore of the Senate, an honor given to the longest serving Member of the majority party. Some may not know this, but ORRIN HATCH was born and raised in Pittsburgh, PA. He attended the University of Pittsburgh Law School and practiced law in the city before moving to Utah years before his election to the Senate.

Senator HATCH has too many legislative accomplishments to list, but I will focus on one that is so important to our family, the Children's Health Insurance Program. Nelson Mandela once said, "There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children." The Children's Health Insurance program, known by the acronym CHIP, is a prime example of when our Nation took an important step forward to care for our children. Senator HATCH worked with our former colleague Senator Ted Kennedy and others to ensure that children from low-income families who were not eligible for Medicaid had access to healthcare. CHIP holds a special place in my heart as well because my father, Governor Robert P. Casey, signed into law one of the first children's health insurance programs in the Nation in 1992. Pennsylvania's CHIP served as the model for the national program that today provides healthcare to nearly 10 million children.

We will miss Senator HATCH here, but he leaves the Senate knowing that his work has positively impacted the lives of millions of Americans. We wish Senator ORRIN HATCH well as he returns to Utah.

TRIBUTE TO BILL NELSON

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to my colleague,

Senator BILL NELSON, who will leave the Senate after 18 years of service in the Senate and over 40 years as a public official in the State of Florida.

Abigail Adams once asked, "If we do not lay out ourselves in the service of mankind whom should we serve?" Throughout his career, Senator NELSON worked to make life better for the people of Florida and the United States.

Florida and Pennsylvania share a distinction in having among the largest percentage of seniors in their States and therefore millions of Medicare beneficiaries. Through his work on the Finance Committee, Senator NELSON pushed to guarantee that Medicare provided quality care to our seniors and people with disabilities. Senator NELSON worked every day to ensure that our government kept the original promise President Johnson made in 1965 to guarantee quality, affordable healthcare for beneficiaries.

Florida has a coastline of 1,350 miles, and BILL NELSON understood that the beaches and the oceans needed to be protected from offshore drilling and pollution. Current and future generations of Floridians and others who visit the State will enjoy the benefits of Senator NELSON's work in fighting to maintain and enhance those protections.

Senator NELSON has also been a leader in the areas of science and space. As a former astronaut who journeyed into space in 1986 on the space shuttle *Columbia*, Senator NELSON understood the importance of exploration and discovery and never stopped imagining what is possible.

We will miss Senator NELSON in this Chamber, and we thank him for his decades of service on behalf of the people of Florida and our Nation. We have no doubt that he will continue to find ways to make a difference and serve our country in the years ahead.

TRIBUTE TO JEFF FLAKE

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to my colleague, Senator JEFF FLAKE. First in the House of Representatives and later in the U.S. Senate, JEFF FLAKE has served the people of Arizona and the Nation for over 15 years.

Senator FLAKE has a strong record of supporting democracy at home and abroad, finding areas of compromise on difficult issues like immigration reform and making sure our Nation keeps its promise to veterans. Senator FLAKE has been a leader on immigration reform efforts, and he has worked tirelessly to find a path forward to address the needs of our immigration system. In 2013, Senator FLAKE was one of the lead authors of bipartisan immigration reform legislation that would have modernized our immigration system, secured our borders, and provided a tough but fair path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants in our country. Through his position in the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, Senator FLAKE has advocated for policies